

"the voice of summer in Seattle." I could not agree more.

Dave also made a brief bit of history by doing the first play by play of a baseball game live on the Internet in September of 1995 when the Mariners and the Yankees played. So baseball came into cyberspace and everybody around the world got to hear some of Dave Niehaus's great phrases such as "swung and belted" and "get the mustard and rye bread, grandma, because it's grand salami time."

And for the fans, we do consider Dave part of the team. In fact, in 1999 the Mariners chose to honor Dave Niehaus by having him throw out the ceremonial first pitch at the opening of our new stadium, something that is the pride of the Northwest, Safeco Field which was opened in 1999.

Dave was there behind the microphone in the 1995 season, the "refuse to lose season." It was an exciting time in the Northwest. He called the exciting one-game playoff with the Angels. After the game, many of the fans cheered him as much as they cheered the players.

Dave was also behind the microphone for what is called the "famous double," the most memorable moment in Seattle Mariners sports history. It was the deciding game of the 1995 playoffs against the Yankees, and in the bottom of the 11th inning, Edgar Martinez hit a double that became Dave's favorite call of his entire career, as Ken Griffey, Jr. scored from first base, winning the series.

Once again, I congratulate Dave Niehaus in winning the 2008 Ford C. Frick Award for excellence in baseball broadcasting and his introduction into Cooperstown. Dave's signature call of "my, oh, my," now will join the ranks of Harry Caray's "holy cow," Mel Allen's "going, going, gone" and Vin Scully's "I can't believe it."

Finally I wish to say, because this is a point of personal privilege for me, that I hope somewhere in 2010, I might be standing in this very same spot with the opportunity to congratulate Edgar Martinez in being enshrined in the Hall of Fame.

Edgar's achievements are many: He is a two-time American League batting champion, a seven-time All-Star, a career .312 hitter, including seven consecutive seasons of hitting above .300 from 1995 to 2001. And of the 164 hitters in the Hall of Fame, Edgar's on-base percentage of .418 would rank him 13th.

I say this because in the Northwest, sometimes we do not get all the attention. Being in a different time zone, people do not see all of the accomplishments. But we are here to congratulate Dave Niehaus and hope for the best, that another Seattle Mariner will be added to the ranks of Cooperstown sometime soon.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

## NATIONAL DAY OF THE AMERICAN COWBOY

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I want to take this moment to remind everybody that today is National Day of the American Cowboy as designated by Congress. I was hoping to be at Cheyenne Frontier Days to make that announcement today, along with my fellow Senator, Mr. BARRASSO, but our votes make that virtually impossible.

There will be a huge celebration there at Cheyenne Frontier Days, which is the daddy of them all, the first rodeo, the biggest rodeo, but at rodeos all over the country and on ranches all across the country, we will be recognizing the hard work and strong ethics of the American cowboy. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

## VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I was hosting a home ownership fair in Wilmington, DE, that kicked off at 6 o'clock this morning. I ran into construction on I-95, ran into construction on New York Avenue, and arrived right at the end and missed the first vote.

On rollcall vote 186, I ask unanimous consent that the RECORD indicate that had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## HOUSING

Mr. CARPER. The Nation has gone through a housing bubble over the last year or two. Housing values have gone up in a way that are unsustainable. We have now seen the collapse of the bubble. As we eventually move our way toward a stabilizing of housing prices, with this housing legislation to make sure that when we do reach the bottom, prices stabilize, and there is enough confidence on the part of people who are renting houses today, people who would like to be homeowners, that they can move in, they will have a mortgage mechanism that still works, they will have a housing finance operation that still works, and we will be able to get this economy moving again.

The legislation we have adopted provides for stabilizing Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, makes sure we have a strong independent regulator for them, brings the FHA into the 21st century and streamlines it, provides for housing counselors. It does a whole lot of good things.

I commend everyone who has had a hand in working in that, including the Presiding Officer, and say that I am delighted it has passed and the President is going to sign it into law.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alaska.

Ms. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, under the previous unanimous consent order, I believe the Republicans have 30 minutes under our control.

I yield to the Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from Alaska.

I ask unanimous consent, if it has not been asked already, that we conduct the next 30 minutes as in a colloquy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

## ENERGY

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, a week ago yesterday the Democratic leader brought to the floor an energy bill. It was limited to speculation. But we welcomed that, we on the Republican side. I think the American people welcomed it, because the most important issue facing our country is \$4 gasoline.

We are sending billions of dollars overseas to people, many of whom are trying to kill us by bankrolling terrorists. We are emptying our pockets to buy gasoline. I have e-mails and letters, as all Senators do—in my case from Tennesseans—from Marines who come home and do not have the money to take a family vacation, and from moms who are losing their jobs because they cannot afford to commute.

So we welcomed the Democratic leader's bringing to the floor a week from yesterday the speculation bill. What we want to do in this 30 minutes is let the American people know what we could have accomplished in this last week if only the Democratic leader would have allowed a full and open debate on gas prices, including proposals to both find more and use less.

You hear a lot of words here on the floor. I couldn't believe what I was hearing a few minutes ago. I thought I must be in the United Nations without translators, because, I mean, what the Democratic leader says he said is not what any of us heard him say.

What we heard him say, when we asked to say: Let us bring up gas prices, let us talk about the real problems, let us talk about speculation, let us talk about supply, let us talk about demand, let us debate, let us vote, we have said: Let's come to some agreement about a number of amendments on each side. Limit them to energy, limit the amount of time, vote on them, see if we can take a serious step toward dealing with \$4 gasoline.

What we have said is we want to find more and use less. Now, why do we say that? Because the whole problem of \$4 gasoline boils down to a couple of things: the expected increased demand for gasoline worldwide, especially in places like China and India where people are becoming richer and driving more cars; and the decreased supply.

The United States can make a significant contribution to both demand and supply. Finding more is the way you deal with supply; using less is the way you deal with demand. So we offered one amendment that 44 senators agreed with that said: Let us do offshore drilling for oil and gas. Now, 85